

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Money sent us otherwise than by registered letter, postal money order, express order, or draft on New York, will be at the risk of the sender.

Agents.—THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE has many volunteer canvassers, and they are generally honest and faithful; but persons who consider their subscription to them must be their own judges of their responsibility. The paper will be sent only on the receipt of the subscription price.

Address.—Readers who desire to change their address should send the old as well as the new address.

Correspondence.—Correspondence is solicited from every section in regard to Grand Army, Sons of Veterans, Pension, and Military matters, and letters to the Editor will always receive prompt attention. Write on one side of the paper only. We do not return communications or manuscripts unless they are accompanied by a request to that effect and the necessary postage, and under no circumstances guarantee publication of any special issue.

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HEADQUARTERS FOR THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

We have secured room 135, Hollenden Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio, for the headquarters of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE during the National Encampment. This is directly across the hall from the National Headquarters of the G. A. R., W. R. C., and Ladies of the G. A. R., and all comrades are invited to make use of it. They can make appointments to meet their friends there, direct their mail to be sent there, and otherwise make it their convenience. We shall be glad to meet there all the readers of the paper.

AFIELD WITH CROCKER'S BRIGADE.

By David M. Strain, Co. B, 15th Iowa.

This is a simple narrative of the everyday doings of this famous brigade, which was composed of some of the best fighting regiments in the magnificent Army of the Tennessee.

PORT HUDSON:

A Reminiscence of the Civil War.

By Col. Prentiss Ingraham.

This is a tribute by a gallant Confederate officer, who was among the defenders of Port Hudson, to the brave boys in blue who besieged that place, and particularly to those who formed the celebrated Fortieth Iowa. It will appear in an early number of The National Tribune.

A BRIDGE-BUILDER IS ALWAYS TRIED BY HIS PIERS.

MR. EVANS'S GOSSIP-HUNTING SPIES COST THE TREASURY \$400,000 A YEAR.

GEN. MILES'S VISIT TO WEST POINT WAS A RUDE JOLT TO MANY OF THE CADETS, IN SHOWING A REALLY GREAT SOLDIER WHO NEVER WAS IN THE ACADEMY.

Who says that it will take ages to Americanize the islands? The Porto Ricans are already giving up cock-fighting for base-ball.

So far Fighting Bill Chandler seems to be satisfied with the knock-out he has given Fighting Bob Evans, and Evans isn't saying a word.

MR. EVANS PAYS \$2,300 A YEAR EACH TO MEN TO PROWL AROUND NEIGHBORHOODS AND TRY TO COLLECT GOSSIP TO SERVE AS A PRETEXT FOR TAKING \$2 A WEEK FROM SOME POOR OLD WIDOW.

EVEN California is invading Europe with her oranges, lemons, prunes, apples and pears, which arrive there in better shape, and costing less than the French, Spanish and Italian.

THE cruiser Cleveland, soon to be launched, is named after the metropolis of Ohio, and not the heavy-tongued Harveized-nickel Statesman who was twice President of the United States.

MR. LEADBEATER is a Councilman of Alexandria, Va. Of course, if he must be something less than much better than his wife and children. But why not change his name a little and lead better life?

NEW YORK continues to be very well satisfied with the operation of her inheritance tax, which seems to be as fair, just, and well-working a revenue system as can be devised. The State Treasury will receive something like \$300,000 from the estate of the late millionaire dentist, Evans.

It used to be said that it cost us \$10,000 for every Indian killed. Great Britain's South African war is costing her \$1,000,000 a day. The net results of last week's operations were 24 Boers captured. As a business proposition we seem to have always been far ahead of the British.

THE German newspapers report a bad attack of mouth disease in Count Von Waldersee, since his return from China. From the way they are speaking of him they seem to import the American term "blowhard" to properly characterize his big stories of very small deeds.

If Senator Tillman is so certain that the "whites are going to remain on top, in spite of the devil," why is he so afraid to have the negroes learn useful trades? If the whites are predestined to be the top-layer, the higher the lower strata are raised the higher the elevation of the whites.

It is very easy to estimate the value of Henry Clay Evans's "savings" to the Treasury. Every time he embitters some poor old veteran, or veteran's widow's declining years by denying his or her pension he saves on an average \$108.28 a year, or a trifle over \$2 a week. Think of how much misery the deprivation of that small amount inflicts.

THE German tariff is not the first step in a general European combination against this country, for the reason that it hits the Russian and Austrian grain markets harder than our own. If anything, there never will be a European combination against us, for the reason that every one of them have troubles of their own, and they are going to make the best terms possible with us, as with each other. The "European concert" has been attempted too often, and too often disastrously failed to be worth while worshipping over.

THE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

Mr. Evans has furnished to the press the following:

Commissioner of Pensions Evans has prepared a statement showing the operations in principal features of the Pension Bureau during the last fiscal year as compared with former years. Most of the data will be embodied in his annual report, and the statement is prepared for the use of the National Encampment of the G. A. R., which will be held before the report is ready.

It shows that the number of pensioners on the rolls June 30 last were 297,735, a net gain of 4,296 over last year. The total net loss to the roll during the year was \$3,587, which includes 28,133 by death, \$35 by remarriage, 1,582 by minors reaching the age of 16, 1,338 by failure to claim pension, and 1,400 from other causes. A comparison of the rolls shows that the roll for the year just closed is the "high-water mark" in the history of the Pension Bureau, the next highest having been reached in 1888. Of the gains to the rolls during the year 3,849 were from the war with Spain. The losses include two from the Revolution, 215 from the War of 1812, 3,824 from the Civil War, 1,133 from the war with the Indians, and the gains to the roll since 1878 were 13,334 widows of the civil war, and 5,604 from the Spanish war, and 1,039 from the war with the Indians in the four years was 4,021.

GENEROSITY IN BOUNTY TO WIDOWS.

Pensioners granted to widows under the act of June 27, 1890, during the year numbered 16,610, or nearly 4,500 in excess of those granted the previous year. The pensioners on the rolls are classified as follows: Survivors, 8,655; invalids, 739,994; widows, 249,086. These comprise 1,124 widows and 1,855 invalids on account of old wars prior to 1861; 207,675 invalids and 88,802 on account of general laws, disability of service origin, most of civil war; 428,114 invalids and 143,111 widows on account of the June, 1890, act, civil war disability not due to service; 650 army nurses and 3,555 invalids and widows on account of the medical examinations held during the year. The total amount paid to pensioners at first payment on the allowance of their claim during 1901 was \$9,534,764, or \$100,298 more than the first payments during 1900. This amount represents the arrears of pension aggregating 675 claims allowed to an average of nearly \$1,500 each.

The fees paid to attorneys amounted to \$201,245, an increase of almost \$74,000, due to the Spanish war. At least 100,000 of the medical examinations held during the year resulted unfavorably to the claimants. The amount paid to pensioners under the general law during the year was \$7,807,243, a decrease of \$1,730,233 from the amount paid last year.

HEAVY PENSIONS THE PRESENT YEAR.

It is believed that during the fiscal year of 1902 the payments under the general law will be exceeded by those to pensioners under the act of 1890. The Spanish war pensioners received \$1,175,225, an increase over last year of \$842,320, and the pensioners under the act of 1890, as revealed May 31, 1901, received \$2,075,481, an increase over last year of \$1,207,402.

During the last 30 years the survivors of the War of 1812 received \$4,841,648; Mexican war, \$30,101,187, and Indian wars, \$5,402,054. The total disbursements for pensions from July 1, 1789, to June 30 of this year, \$1,139,273,033. There were 45,800 claimants for pension during the year.

The pension rolls still contain the names of one survivor and 1,527 widows on account of the War of 1812; 1088 survivors and 3,470 widows on account of Indian wars, and 7,500 survivors and 8,100 widows on account of the Mexican war. The Bureau issued 109,908 certificates of all classes during the year, 44,225 being for original pension. The number of claims pending July 1 last was 403,563. The statement gives the following amounts of money paid pensioners under different Administrations:

PAYMENTS DURING ADMINISTRATIONS.

President Grant's first term. \$116,136,273

Average per year. 29,034,069

President Grant's second term. 28,590,622

Average per year. 28,590,622

President Hayes's Administration. 145,222,480

Average per year. 36,305,620

President Garfield's Administration. 237,825,079

Average per year. 59,456,269

President Cleveland's first term. 305,636,662

Average per year. 76,409,165

President Harrison's Administration. 519,707,726

Average per year. 129,926,931

President Cleveland's second term. 557,950,407

Average per year. 139,487,602

President McKinley's first term. 500,000,157

Average per year. 140,000,157

The first thing that strikes one in reading this is that the veterans of the rebellion are not given the benefits of this increase of 4,296 on the pension roll. Nearly the whole went to the survivors—and they nearly all survive—of the Spanish war. They got 3,849 of the total of 4,296, or over 90 per cent of the gain.

This, too, while the veterans are old, and at the critical periods of their lives, while the Spanish war survivors and their widows are all young, with the greater part of their lives yet before them.

The next thought is that with all these hundreds of thousands of unadjudicated cases on file, with the claimants all past the meridian of life, and constantly growing older, and needing, with increasing urgency, the aid of the pension law, why has the pension law been kept on the shelf, and no one admitted to the roll, until some one died and made a place for him. Even including this extraordinary increase of 4,296 during the past year, Mr. Evans has allowed a net increase to the rolls during his four years of but 4,021. As the Spanish war was fought in the meantime, and has so far cost the Government \$1,000,000,000, and are really fewer Union veterans and their widows on the rolls than when he took office.

This, too, at a time when the rapidly increasing infirmities of the Union veterans demanded a large expansion of the roll.

This fact is again brought out strongly in the report of the Commissioner of the Pension Bureau, which shows that the amount paid pensioners under the old law for disabilities of service origin. In the very nature of things these invalids must grow needier every year, with an increase their ratings required by their increasing disabilities. Yet the payments to this class diminished \$1,720,233 last year.

The fees paid pension attorneys last year aggregated \$201,245, and was certainly the largest amount money paid any attorneys in the country.

There were over 100,000 claimants rejected on medical grounds, which sufficiently explains the ghastly force of pronouncing every week 2,000 men past 60, and who have undergone the most terrible campaigns as "not incapacitated for the performance of manual labor." Was there ever anything more absurd!

The commissions of the pension administrators under different Administrations are very interesting, but they recall facts that the Commissioner did not intend.

Under the Administrations of Grant, Hayes and Garfield the veterans of the war of the rebellion were still young men. They had the youthful vigor which could for the time overcome the strains upon their physiques made by their terrible campaigns. They had youthful pride, which would not let them admit that they, who had done such wonderful things in the field, were not physically equal to anything in civil life.

Still more, the country was then growing under the enormous debt due the bond-

holders, and it was their patriotic duty to in every way help the Treasury pay an average of about \$200,000,000 a year in gold, which it had to raise for principal and interest. To do everything possible to assist the country out of this morass of debt seemed to those public-spirited young men as much of a duty as to fight the battles in the field. So all thought of pension was discouraged, except for those who were so badly disabled as to be in absolute need.

By the time of Garfield's, Arthur's and Cleveland's Administrations age was beginning to tell on these men. The drafts drawn on their physical vigor by the swamps of the Mississippi, the sands in front of Charleston, the bleak Cumberland, and the fathomless mud of Virginia were beginning to mature, and that relentless creditor, Age, was pressing for payment. The strongest wills could no longer overcome or conceal their growing disabilities. Besides, the country had thanks to the heavy taxation which they had cheerfully endured, emerged from the incubus of debt. Specie payments had been resumed, the Treasury had been put in a most healthful condition, and the extinction of the National debt was in sight.

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